

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 FEA-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06
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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9001
INFO USERDA HQ WASHDC PRIORITY
USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 3290

IO/SCT ALSO PASS NRC
LONDON FOR USDEL TO NSG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, NERG, IAEA
SUBJECT: DRAFT CONVENTION ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR
MATERIALS

REF: (A) IAEA VIENNA 3239 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 84394 (C) IAEA
VIENNA 2856 (NOTAL) (D) IAEA VIENNA 1737 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US SCENARIO OF PROCEDURAL
STEPS LEADING TO CONFERENCE TO ADOPT DRAFT CONVENTION AVOID
ACTION BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN REF B, DEPT REQUESTED MISSION'S VIEWS ON A SCENARIO WHICH
CONTEMPLATED (A) REQUEST TO DIRECTOR GENERAL BY JUNE MEETING
OF IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO CONVENE GROUP OF EXPERTS TO
REVIEW US DRAFT CONVENTION, (B) ACTION BY GENERAL CONFERENCE TO
CONVENE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT PRODUCT OF
EXPERTS DISCUSSIONS. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND, FOR REASONS SET
FORTH BELOW, THAT WE NOT RPT NOT SEEK TO USE BOARD AS VEHICLE
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AT ANY STAGE IN SCENARIO.

2. AS MISSION POINTED OUT IN REPORTING ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING
OF THE BOARD (REF C), A MARKED ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION
BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING STATES HAS DEVELOPED IN BOARD
DUE PRINCIPALLY TO A RESENTFUL PERCEPTION ON THE PART OF THE
LATTER THAT THE AGENCY IS BEING USED AS A MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING

DISCUSSIONS MADE ELSEWHERE BY DEVELOPED STATES AND IN WHICH THEY HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED. THE RECENT MEETING OF THE BOARD'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE - IDENTICAL IN COMPOSITION TO THE BOARD ITSELF - WHICH, AFTER THE LONGEST AND MOST CONTENTIOUS SESSION IN YEARS, ENDED IN A COMPLETE IMPASSE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING STATES (REPORTED SEPT), ILLUSTRATES THAT IF ANYTHING THIS CONFRONTATION HAS WORSENERED SINCE FEBRUARY. THE POINT HAS BEEN REACHED AT WHICH DEVELOPING STATES WILL AUTOMATICALLY QUESTION ANY PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY A DEVELOPED STATE. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD NOTE THAT THE JUNE MEETING OF THE BOARD MAY WELL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT BOARD SESSION EVER.

3. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE MISSION FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND RISKY TO OUR OBJECTIVE TO ATTEMPT TO LOBBY FOR SUPPORT FOR BOARD ACTION CALLING ON DG TO CONVENE GROUP OF EXPERTS TO REVIEW WHAT WOULD ADMITTEDLY BE A US DOCUMENT RATHER THAN A SECRETARIAT DRAFT. PRIOR CIRCULATION OF DRAFT TO MEMBERSHIP FOR COMMENTS WOULD NOT ENTIRELY AVOID NEGATIVE REACTION OF SOME MEMBERS TO WHAT THEY WOULD PERCEIVE AS ATTEMPT BY US TO MANIPULATE BOARD. THIS TYPE OF RESPONSE WOULD HARDLY BE HELPFUL TO US OBJECTIVE OF RETAINING CONTROL OVER ITS INITIATIVE; IT COULD IN FACT JEOPARDIZE OUR ENTIRE EFFORT. THESE FACTORS UNDERLAY MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS TRANSMITTED REF B.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, AND AS FAR SIMPLER AND LESS RISKY APPROACH, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM DG AND APPROPRIATE SECRETARIAT MEMBERS (INCLUDING BECKER) IN DUE COURSE OF OUR OBJECTIVE, INCLUDING ACTION BY GEN CONF, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND TO SEEK EKLUND'S AGREEMENT SIMPLY TO ROUTINELY INFORM JUNE MEETING OF BOARD OF HIS INTENTION TO CONVENE GROUP OF EXPERTS TO CONSIDER DRAFT CONVENTION ALREADY PROVIDED TO MEMBERSHIP AND TO SECRETARIAT BY "A MEMBER STATE". LOW KEY STATEMENT OF THIS SORT WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH NORMAL PRACTICE AND WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO AROUSE ANY NEGATIVE COMMENT. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR POSSIBILITY THAT DG WILL BE RELUCTANT TO CONVENE EXPERTS GROUP TO ADDRESS A DOCUMENT WHICH DOES NOT RPT NOT REFLECT INPUT FROM HIS OWN STAFF.

5. MISSION WOULD WELCOME DEPT'S VIEWS ON FUNDING OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE DISCUSSED IN PARA 6, REF B.STONE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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